

## The Sun.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1881.

## Announcements Today.

Academy of Music—Levere's Concerts.  
Alderman's Club—Auditorium—The Chinese in the U.S.  
Aquarium—Art and Flower.  
Bijou Opera House—The Santa Claus.  
Beatty's Theatre—The Mighty Bear.  
Bennett's Bowery—Bromley and Pitt.  
Brooklyn Academy—Theatres—Theatricals.  
Chickering's—Theatres—Theatricals.  
Dy's Theatres—The Casino Restaurant.  
Grand Opera—Holland.  
Globe Dome Music—Theatre.  
Hayes'—Theatre—Theatricals—Theatricals.  
Hersey's—Theatre—Theatricals.  
Madison Square—Theatre—Theatricals.  
New Theatre—Comedy—Theatricals.  
Navy Theatre—Civ. Libs. Co.—Theatricals.  
Perry's—Theatre—Theatricals—Theatricals.  
Blindfold Theatre—Patrons.  
Shakespeare—Theatricals.  
Terry's—Theatre—Theatricals.  
The Casino—Yankee Doodle—Theatricals.  
U.S. Opera House—Theatres—Theatricals—Theatricals.  
Widow's—Theatre—Theatres—Theatricals.  
World's—Music—Theatricals.

The regular circulation of THE SUN for the week ending Dec. 3, 1881, was:  
Saturday.....\$55,610  
Sunday.....135,100  
Monday.....131,000  
Tuesday.....131,000  
Wednesday.....130,000  
Thursday.....131,000  
Friday.....131,000  
Total for the week.....\$625,600

## The Forty-Seventh Congress.

If the organization of the House is not delayed by an attempt to exclude certain Southern Democrats, President Arthur's first message will be transmitted to Congress to-day.

The Republican party comes into power in the House of Representatives for the first time since the Forty-third Congress.

If the Republican representatives in Congress are wise, they will keep constantly in memory the tidal wave of 1877, and the causes which led to that memorable uprising of the people against corruption and extravagance.

## Reform Within the Party.

Recent developments at Washington do not encourage anyone to hope that a party which has been twenty years in power is capable of reforming itself, or of correcting the abuses which have crept into the Government under its administration.

The Treasury investigation has come to nothing. When the trail got warm about the doors of influential and powerful men the hunt was called off, and it is not likely to be renewed.

The State route people are having it all their own way. Instead of being prosecuted, punished, and compelled to disgorge their plunder, they are considering what penalty they shall inflict upon those who presumed to investigate and expose them. They are strong party men and they are high party men. They "put up" enormously from the gains of their criminal business in last year's election, and they hold secrets and possess power which may not be lightly encountered.

The first Republican Congress since 1874 assembles to-day; and what do we see there? The lobby, which disappeared under Rutherford, is gathering again in grand force, and will soon make itself felt as in the halcyon days of Grant.

But when is the reform within the party to begin?

## The Congress Districts of New York.

The reapportionment of this State into Congress districts is likely to be one of the difficult tasks that the new Democratic Legislature will be called upon to perform. Congress at its last session, after considering what the ratio of representation should be by the census of 1880, left it undecided.

It was understood that a majority of the committee having the matter in charge had voted to report a bill making the number of representatives in Congress 31. It is probable that this bill, or a similar one, will be passed at the approaching session in time for the reapportionment of the States by their several legislatures.

Under the proposed bill, New York would have thirty-two members instead of thirty-three, as at present, or one for each 150,000 inhabitants. The present ratio is one Congressman for 130,000 inhabitants. The rapid growth of the country, and the desire to keep the membership down to a number that was thought convenient, has constrained Congress to diminish the ratio of representation. Thus it happens that the Western States with their wonderful growth gain representation at the expense of the slower moving East, and that New York, even with an increase of 70,000 in her population, loses ground.

Assuming that under the most favorable arrangement the State will lose one member, the changes to be made by the Legislature in redistributing must necessarily be great. Since the census of 1870 was taken, there has been a steady movement from country to town. The growth of the great cities has been out of proportion to the growth of the small towns and villages; counties like Chenango, Delaware, Washington, Oswego, and Schuyler have actually decreased in population, while New York city and Brooklyn together have gained nearly half a million. In fact, nearly two-thirds of the entire growth of the State in the past ten years has taken place in those two cities.

Who shall lose the Congress district that is to be taken from the State? Neither of the two cities that is certain. On the decreased ratio of representation proposed, the two cities will be entitled to eleven Congressmen, one more than they now have. The loss must necessarily fall on the country districts. The counties of Oswego and Madison, for instance, now form one district. The census of 1880 gives them 122,000 inhabitants. Another district composed of Chenango, Delaware, and Otsego counties has only 130,000. If the ratio of representation is to be one Congressman for every 150,000, or thereabouts, these and half a dozen other districts of about equal population must be radically changed.

The apportionment of 1872 was not just. The districts were so arranged by a Republican Legislature that no matter what the popular majority of the Democrats in the State, a majority of the Congressmen would be Republicans. In 1873 the Democrats elected their Governor by 45,000 majority, carrying twenty-five of the sixty-two counties, and very nearly electing their ticket winner, the old of New York City. Yet at the same time they only elected sixteen of the thirty-three Congressmen. In 1876 Mr. Tilden's swept the State by 25,000 majority, but the Republicans still elected seventeen Congressmen.

In 1878, on a small majority in the State, the Republicans elected twenty-four Congressmen, and in 1880, when their majority was about 25,000 in the State, twenty-one.

Where the parties are so nearly even in strength as the elections for the past six years, one party should not have such obvious advantage over the other.

The Democratic Legislature should correct this inequality by a fair plan of ap-

portionment; but it should not be led by vicious Republican precedent into any gerrymandering scheme.

## The Sessions-Bradley Case.

There may be an opportunity for Mr. Russell, the incoming Attorney-General, to distinguish himself at the very outset of his official career. Mr. Hinckley, the District Attorney of Albany, has informed him that the SESSIONS-BRADLEY bribery case will be ready for trial at the opening of the January term of the court in that county.

There have been delays in urging forward this notable prosecution. The first hitch sprang from the alleged inability to discover Speaker SHARPE, the stockholder of the \$25,000, so as to bring him as a witness before the grand jury, and subsequently before the petit jury. For many weeks it seemed to be easy to find a Speaker in almost any place except where he could be served with a subpoena. He travelled up and down the Hudson in open day; he was present when Gen. ARRINTON took the oath of office as President; he attended District Conventions in Ulster; he bore a conspicuous part in the Republican State Convention at the Academy of Music. Still the unfortunate individual who held the subpoena could not catch the Speaker's eye.

In view of the notice which the District Attorney has given to the Attorney-General, it may be presumed that the valuable services of Gen. SHARPE have been secured for the January trial. He will be in Albany at that time as a member of the Assembly; and he will not be embarrassed with the Speakership, he will have leisure to appear as a witness. He can interest the public by telling all he knows about the \$25,000, and by throwing light on the mysterious question of the ownership of the money. It looks odd to see a couple of thousand dollars lying about loose in the Albany lobby without half a dozen claimants at least. But as to this particular money, SHARPE doesn't pretend that it belongs to him; BRADLEY repudiates it; Sessions asserts that he never saw it. At all events, it is to be hoped that Gen. SHARPE will be able to tell what has become of it.

As we understand it, the defense will rest on two grounds, which, at first blush, might seem to be inconsistent with each other. It will be contended that no money passed between BRADLEY and SESSIONS. On this point there will be a good deal of hard swearing. It will be further insisted that if SESSIONS did pay the \$25,000 to BRADLEY, it was put up by the Stalwarts to defraud him as a candidate for Senator, and that BRADLEY was one of the conspirators, and therefore the transaction was not bribery. For every tenant who responds to their appeal, and holds back his rent until his imprisoned champion has been released, renders himself liable to eviction, and if thrust out upon the roadside, he has a right to expect food and shelter from the association whose injunctions he has obeyed. It was understood from the negotiations of the Land League, in favor of the non-rent manifesto, are, it is plain, far greater than they ever were before. 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